

Genscher: Cooperate with Soviets

AMMAN (AP) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher urged Western allies Saturday to seek greater cooperation with the Soviet Union. He also praised recent proposals by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Speaking before members of his Free Democratic Party, Mr. Genscher said the West was presented with a unique opportunity to improve East-West relations. He also warned against letting mistrust of the Soviet Union destroy the chance for better relations with Moscow. "It would be a mistake of historic proportions if the West were to let this chance go by, only because it is unable to rid itself of the thought that we must assume the worst of the Soviet Union" and its intentions, Mr. Genscher told delegates to a North Rhine-Westphalia state party congress. "We should not shrink back from our chance to improve East-West relations but make use of it," he added. Mr. Genscher said Mr. Gorbachev's recent proposed domestic reforms and proposals that the superpowers negotiate a pact to rid Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles were in the interest of the Western allies. "Gorbachev's policies are in the interest of the West, if they follow his recent pronouncements," Mr. Genscher said.

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جريدة الاردن تايمز يومية اردنية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

'Geagea assassination plot' revealed

BEIRUT (R) — A would-be assassin said Saturday he had given himself up to Lebanon's main rightist militia after deciding to abort an alleged plan to kill its leader with a car bomb. Fuad Rabbani, 32, told a news conference organised by the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia that he was offered \$250,000 to plant a car bomb to kill its leader Samir Geagea. He said his orders were to park a car loaded with 80 kilograms of explosive on a route Dr. Geagea was expected to take earlier this week. "As soon as I knew who the target was... I decided to go along with the plan... to expose those behind it," he said. Mr. Rabbani, a civil engineer, accused Syria former "Lebanese Forces" commander Elie Hobeika and ex-President Suliman Franjeh's grandson Suliman of being behind the alleged plot. He said he had given himself up with the booby-trapped car at a "Lebanese Forces" checkpoint controlling access to the militia-run Christian enclave. Dr. Geagea, 33, is bitterly opposed to Syrian influence in Lebanon. He became "Lebanese Forces" leader in January 1986, ousting Mr. Hobeika two weeks after the latter signed a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon with leftist militias.

Cabinet abolishes fee on non-Jordanian trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday decided, during its regular session, to abolish a JD 75 exit fee on non-Jordanian owned refrigerator trucks leaving the country with loads of Jordanian agricultural products in a move to promote exports. During the session the Cabinet approved the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian investment company and also approved the Aqaba Regional Authority's budget for 1987.

Temperature to rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — The depression currently affecting Jordan is expected to subside gradually on Sunday with a rise in temperature, a spokesman for the Meteorology Department said Saturday. The spokesman said that a gradual increase of clouds of different levels was expected with a rise in temperature due to a warm front originating from Central Mediterranean.

Andreotti briefs Cossiga on coalition

ROME (R) — Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti on Saturday briefed President Francesco Cossiga on the first round of his political consultations to try to form a new Italian government. Mr. Andreotti, 86, a Christian Democrat, has headed five previous governments and served as foreign minister under Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who resigned on March 3. On Monday Mr. Andreotti begins a second round of consultations with political leaders on setting up another five-party coalition made up of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social-Democrats and Liberals.

5 timebombs explode in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Timebombs exploded nearly simultaneously Saturday at the offices of five companies involved in the construction of Tokyo's Narita airport, police said. One person was slightly injured in the explosions, police said. Chukakuha, a radical group opposed to the airport construction, claimed responsibility for the bombings at a rally in Tokyo Saturday night, Kyodo News Service reported. Police said the explosions occurred between 3:15 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. in Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama and Ibaragi, all in the Tokyo area. Police suspect radicals opposed to the airport since the targeted firms are all involved in the second phase of construction of the airport, a police official said. Local farmers and their supporters have been resisting the government's expropriation of farmland to expand the airport.

12 killed in Philippines violence

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels ambushed a military truck in the southern Philippines on Saturday, killing eight people and wounding six others, military officials said. In a separate incident in Bulacan province just outside Manila, soldiers fatally shot four suspected insurgents as they allegedly tried to escape after overpowering two officers during an interrogation, the military said.

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Rifai: Jordan is back on course towards development and progress

Balance of trade has improved by JD 35m • Gold and currency reserves stand at JD 822m • Liquidity has risen to 10.5 per cent

• Deposits in commercial banks total JD 2,000m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Saturday that economic measures adopted by the government over the past year had begun to bear fruit and the country was now back on the right course towards further development and progress.

In a wide-ranging interview with the chief editors of the Al Ra'i and Al Dustour newspapers, Mr. Rifai said that the imports of the country fell to JD 850 million in 1986 from JD 1,072 million in the previous year and exports increased, thereby bringing about an improvement of about JD 35 million in the country's balance of trade status.

Mr. Rifai said that the country's reserves of gold and foreign currency stood at JD 822 million, up from JD 781 million in the previous year; Jordanian expatriates transfers to the Kingdom increased from JD 402 million in

the volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market rose significantly, and in the first two months of 1987 it registered an increase of 182 per cent over the 1986 average figure.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: The government has worked out a new elections law. When does the government plan to put it into force, and does the government plan to dissolve Parliament to pave for a new election?

Answer: The new election law has not been suspended and it will be put into force once the mandate of the present Parliament is over and after a new election is held. The present mandate of Parliament ends by 16.1.1988 and the constitution provides for a new election in the four months that precede the date of the termination of this mandate; that is to say that a new election should be held

before the end of this year if the present mandate is not extended. The King is empowered by the constitution to extend the mandate for one or two extra years. If this does not happen then the election should be held before the end of 1987. It is true that the last election was held 20 years ago but by-elections were held over the past period and 18 people were elected representing the West Bank and 11 new deputies were elected representing the East Bank. This means that there is a total of 29 new deputies, nearly half the House, now sitting in Parliament.

Q: Does the government plan to recommend an extension of this mandate?

A: It is premature to discuss this subject. As I said, unless the King extends Parliament's mandate then the election has to be held before the end of the year.

Q: Since Amman has been extended to include other municipalities, does the government plan to consider municipal elections within the whole of the Greater Amman area?

A: Of course, the government

plans to do that and there will be elections for the Amman city proper and for the other municipalities included within the Greater Amman region. As you know,

(Continued on page 3)

French hostage faces death threat ultimatum

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A French television technician held hostage in Lebanon was facing a death threat on Saturday after France dismissed a 48-hour ultimatum from his kidnappers.

The pro-Franco Revolutionary Justice Organisation said it would "put on trial and execute" Jean-Louis Normandin unless French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac explained remarks by President Francois Mitterrand within 48 hours.

The group's hand-written statement, which contained no specific deadline, was delivered to an international news agency in Beirut at about 1200 GMT Thursday. In Paris, Mr. Chirac's spokesman Denis Baudouin said Friday that France would "pursue the fight against terrorism, from wherever it comes and in whatever form it manifests itself."

Mr. Normandin, 35, was seized on March 8 last year with three other crewmen of the Antenne-2 television station after filming a rally of Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) militants in southern Beirut. His three colleagues have been freed.

"We have no special arrangements regarding the French hostage. We have no information on him," police chief Osman Osman said Saturday.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the United States appealed for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon ahead of second anniversary on Monday of the capture of the longest held American Terry Anderson.

China to join arms talks after U.S.-Soviet accord

VIENNA (AP) — A high Chinese official was quoted Saturday as saying Peking may join international negotiations aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons provided the United States and the Soviet Union reach agreement first.

The official Bulgarian news agency BTA, in a dispatch from the capital of Sofia, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian made the statement Friday on arrival in Bulgaria from Poland for an official visit.

Mr. Wu, who started his European tour in Czechoslovakia, was also scheduled to visit West Germany, Italy, San Marino and Switzerland.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's Feb. 28 proposal has raised hopes that Moscow and Washington could agree by the end of the year to scrap the European missiles and cut their numbers in Soviet Asia.

In another development, the United States has charged that the Soviet Union on numerous occasions over the past 10 years has released radioactive gas and debris into the atmosphere as a result of nuclear tests.



EVICTED FROM HOME

Jerusalem's Arab quarter for over 50 years, the Karakie family (above) were evicted by Israeli police on Wednesday. Rashad Karakie, 33, head of the family, said the Israeli authorities took this action because all previous efforts by Jewish settlers to buy the house from him or force the family out of the neighbourhood had failed. The Israeli justice ministry refused to comment to the Jerusalem Post regarding the case. At roughly 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, about 50 police and border police gathered in the area to evict Mr. Karakie, his wife Leila, his 75-year-old mother-in-law Mahadieh and his six children. They were all driven outside, their furniture carted away and the door sealed shut. Mr. Karakie said his mother-in-law was taken by the Israeli authorities and he did not know where she is. Mr. Karakie vowed that he and his family will live in the street in protest.

long-standing Iranian loan.

The kidnappers' statement came with a colour photograph of Normandin, bearded and wearing a blue track suit and T-shirt.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation issued no fresh word on his condition or whereabouts on Saturday.

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U.S. and Israel had agreement not to spy

TEL AVIV (AP) — A former Israeli foreign ministry official said Saturday the Pollard episode violated a formal agreement between Israel and the United States not to spy on each other.

Shlomo Avineri, a leading Israeli academic and former director-general of the foreign ministry, said that the agreement between the two allies had existed for several years.

Avineri's comments indicated a more official arrangement concerning espionage between the two countries than had previously been assumed to exist.

Until now, officials had referred only to an unspoken understanding between Israel and the United States that they would not engage in espionage activity against each other.

"There has been a formal understanding between the United States and Israel not to spy on one another," Avineri said in a telephone interview.

Avineri refused to elaborate on details of the agreement, including whether it was written form, saying only "it has been in existence for some years."

"The Pollard episode was in clear violation of that agreement," Avineri said.

Perez said he was confident the government's decision last

Wednesday to appoint a two-man investigatory panel to probe the Pollard case would defuse rising

tensions with the United States.

Syrians supervise relief supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian officers supervised the entry of U.N. relief supplies into a beleaguered Palestinian refugee camp in southern Beirut on Saturday.

Witnesses said two Syrian military observers stood at the edge of Bourj Al Barajneh with officials of the Shii'ite Amal militia as three U.N. trucks drove slowly along a muddy, shell-cratered road into the camp at least 12,000.

Amal lifted a siege of Bourj Al Barajneh and its sister camp of Shatila on Feb. 18 after a four-and-a-half month camp's war in Beirut and South Lebanon left some 850 people dead.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said the trucks were loaded with 27 tonnes of food and 50 kilograms of medical supplies.

She said UNRWA handed an equal amount of food, donated by the World Food Programme, to Amal for Shii'ites living nearby — the condition for some previous deliveries to the camps.

Shii'ite Lebanese army troops stood by, but there was no sign of Amal fighters. Shii'ite forces have continued to restrict access to Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila despite the presence of Syrian troops nearby.

Over 7,000 Syrian troops moved into west Beirut on Feb. 22, but stayed clear of the camps and adjacent Shii'ite areas.

This was the third UNRWA convoy to reach Bourj Al Barajneh since Amal announced the lifting of the siege. Two convoys organised by Iranian mediators and one by pro-Syrian Palestinians have also entered the camp.

Iranian forces are lodged on Iraqi territory, some of them only about 10 kilometres east of the southern port city of Basra, following a ground attack launched in January.

Diplomats in Baghdad and Tehran have said Iran is facing hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

U.S. 'warned Iran'

In another development, the American TV CBS said Friday that the United States had warned Iran not to fire newly installed missiles at ships in the Gulf.

The network's Pentagon correspondent said the Iranians had installed about a dozen surface-to-surface missiles in sites one U.S. intelligence officer said would allow them to shoot at passing tankers.

The report did not say if Washington planned any response if the missiles were fired.

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Iran

TASS: Washington tried 'crude provocation' in Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet News Agency TASS on Saturday reported an Iranian leader's claim that U.S. envoys tried to convince Tehran a Soviet invasion was planned, and called Washington's report "a deliberate crude provocation."

Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said during a weekly prayer sermon carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on Friday that American officials, whom he did not name, had shown Iranians satellite photographs purported to show Soviet troops amassed near the Soviet-Iran border.

Former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and other officials made secret trips to Iran last year to arrange arms sales, negotiate for the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon and explore the possibility of improving relations.

According to White House memos printed in the Tower Commission report on the Iran-contra arms deal, one purpose of the American visit to Tehran last May was to deliver an intelligence report on Soviet military deployments near Iran.

"The U.S. officials were trying to convince Tehran that the Soviets intended to unleash a war against Iran and presented a map showing 'specific directions of Soviet invasion,'" TASS said in its commentary titled "Washington's fresh malicious invention."

"Washington's inventions can be evaluated only as a deliberate crude provocation, a clumsy attempt at ascribing to the Soviet Union aggressive and hegemonic aims pursued by the United States itself."

TASS said the Soviet Union was one of the first to recognise the Iranian revolution and condemn alleged U.S. interference in domestic affairs in the Islamic nation.

"It is not the Soviet Union, but the United States, which is preparing for armed interference in the Iranian report."

Arab-American leader to sue U.S. government for seizing passport

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The leader of an Islamic-American organisation, whose passport was seized because he defied a ban on travel to Lebanon, has said he will file suit against the U.S. government to regain the document.

D.T. Mehdi, secretary general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said in a telephone interview from New York that he will ask the U.S. district court in Washington next week to order the return of the passport.

First, Dr. Mehdi said, he will try to meet Secretary of State George Shultz or a representative Monday to make a personal plea for return of the passport.

The State Department, to keep Americans out of Lebanon, announced on Jan. 28 that U.S. passports would no longer be valid for travel to that country.

U.S., Israel condemned for role in C. America

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (R) — The Non-Aligned Movement has condemned what it called U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and said both South Africa and Israel were supporting U.S. military policy in Central America.

"Nicaragua has been the victim of a cruel, unfair and unequal war imposed upon it by the most powerful country in the world," said a statement issued at the end of a three-day conference here of nations which describe themselves as not aligned with either East or West.

The statement, entitled the "Georgetown Peace Appeal," urged Washington to "contribute to the creation of conditions needed for a peaceful settlement" in Central America.

In a separate final communiqué, the conference "called upon the government of the United States of America to immediately cease all pressures and acts of aggression against Nicaragua."

Both documents were issued early Friday after drawn-out discussions in which moderate member states argued against a stridently anti-American tone.

Police thwart Palestinian meeting in Munich, arrest 7

MUNICH (R) — Police have sealed off an area of Munich to prevent a meeting called to discuss Palestinian revolution and detained seven people, two on suspicion of supporting a "terrorist organisation," police said.

About 300 police took part in the operation, which followed a court ban on the meeting, a spokesman said.

It doesn't matter when we take it from him, once he's used it," she said. "The fact is, even if they don't catch you right when you've done it, the passport's still not valid."

A State Department spokesman, Laura Juhl, said that Dr. Mehdi's passport had been confiscated as evidence that he violated the ban on travel to Lebanon.

Dr. Mehdi contends that the ban on travel to Lebanon is unconstitutional. He defied a similar ban on travel to Libya last year.

No action was taken against him when he returned to New York from that trip. But last week when Dr. Mehdi arrived at Newark International Airport from a brief visit to London, U.S. customs agents seized his passport at the request of the State Department.

Dr. Mehdi, 59, said he was born in Baghdad, Iraq and became a U.S. citizen in 1983.

In a statement, the State Department said it ordered Dr.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A fine arts exhibition by Egyptian artist Rifi Razzaz at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 15).

* An exhibition of oil paintings by Mrs. Hossna Lekaki at the Potemkina Gallery — Wadi Sajra (until March 20).

PLAY

* Arabic plays for children daily at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre — Tel. 6610267/ American Centre — Tel. 643711; American Centre Library — 641520; British Council — 6361478; French Cultural Centre — 637003; Goethe Institute — 641993; Soviet Cultural Centre — 642049; Spanish Cultural Centre — 624069; Royal Opera House — 6610155; Hayfa Cultural Centre — 6610155; Hayfa Youth City — 66716146; Y.W.C.A. — 641793; Y.W.M.A. — 6642251; Amman Municipal Library — 6771111; Univ. of Jordan Library — 643553.

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Tel. Al Qasr (Cleopatra) Hill. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries.

Iran to get U.S. computers from Europe

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An official of Iran's government news service has said the agency had concluded an agreement to buy U.S.-made computers from European firms and not American companies.

Soviet media have condemned the covert U.S. sale of arms to Iran as interference in the Gulf conflict.

The TASS commentary on Mr. Rafsanjani's speech made no mention of the hostage situation in Lebanon or the goals of the secret U.S. visits to Iran last year.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Friday, the U.S. warning was intended to undermine Soviet-Iranian relations, "involve us in a war with our northern neighbour" and divert Iranian troops from the battlefield with Iraq.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman would not comment on the Iranian report.

The computers in the proposed sale were made by the U.S.-based Digital Equipment Corp.

The IRNA official said the agreement with European firms to purchase the PDP Digital computers was concluded long ago, the agency said. He did not give any specific date nor name the companies.

The computers in question have been on the market for several years and are available in Europe and that is why "we have opted for this type," IRNA quoted the official as saying.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Saturday paid a visit to the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Rifai receives letter from Tunisian premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Saturday received a letter from Tunisian Prime Minister Rashid Star dealing with ties between the two countries. The letter was handed to Mr. Rifai by Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Said Ibn Moustafa during a meeting at the Prime Ministry.

Aid fund directors discuss financing

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of the National Aid Fund offices in the Kingdom held a meeting on Saturday to discuss issues related to financing aid schemes, studies on cases and the social status of Jordanians applying for aid or rehabilitation training programmes. The meeting also reviewed legislation related to the formation of private committees for national assistance in accordance with an order issued by the fund's director general Mohammad Al Saeqour.

Sudanese trade delegation due today

AMMAN (Petra) — An economic and trade delegation, headed by the undersecretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Trade and Supply are due in Amman today on a several-day official visit to Jordan. During their stay, the delegation and officials from the chambers of trade and industry will discuss means to strengthen and promote trade links between both countries.

Road accidents register increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Four people died and 140 others were injured as a result of 312 road accidents which occurred in the country over the past week, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). In a statement the PSD said that most of the accidents occurred in the Amman region. According to the statement, the number of accidents increased by 11.4 per cent over the previous week, the number of injured increased by 2.3 per cent, and the number of deaths decreased by 20 per cent.

Association to attend Arab engineers' talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineers Association will take part in the meetings of the higher council of the Federation of Arab Engineers which will open today in Sana'a, North Yemen. Jordanian Engineers Association President Ibrahim Abu Ayyash will head the delegation and he said that the council will discuss a number of issues related to supporting Arab engineers in the occupied Arab territories. The three-day meetings will also discuss a final report on the 17th Arab conference held in Amman last May as well as administrative issues.

Troupe to take part in folk festival

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian national folkloric troupe will take part in the second international festival of folkloric art which is scheduled to be held in Norway on June 22. The troupe boycotted the first international festival due to the participation of Israeli troupes. The troupe's management said that it would only participate in this year's festival if no Israeli troupes took part in compliance with Arab boycott of Israel resolutions.

Jordan to attend Arab jurists' meeting in Baghdad next week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Jurists Association (JJA) will take part in the Arab Jurists Federation's 12th meeting due to open in Baghdad next Saturday. A JJA spokesman said that during the three-day meeting the participants will discuss issues of concern to the Arab nation and the subject of holding seminars to highlight the importance of the independent judiciary system, civil laws and trade union liber-

ties in the Arab World.

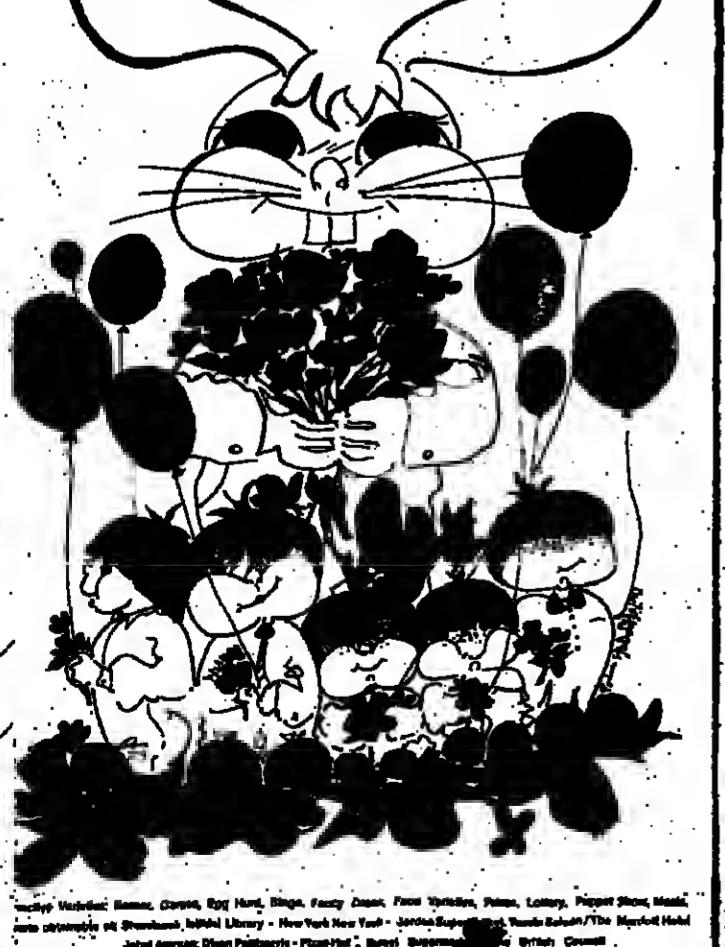
Also on the agenda are financial and administrative issues and the election of a new secretary general for the federation who will serve for the coming two years.

The JJA will be represented at the meeting by lawyer Jalal Abbasi, who is the JJA president, and Mr. Jalal Al Abbadi, the JJA's secretary.

Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Basma

1987 Spring Festival
Organized by
The Jordanian Save the Children Fund
at the Amman Plaza Hotel
on Friday 3 April 1987 from
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wings for selling gifts, food supplies, stationery, fancy dresses, children's toys, crafts and artificial flowers. In addition, there



Jordan, Syria discuss operations of joint industry company



Minister of Trade and Industry Rajai Muasher and his Syrian counterpart Ali Al Tarabuli head the table and talk on projects being carried out by the joint industrial company (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Trade and Industry Rajai Muasher and his Syrian counterpart Ali Al Tarabuli on Saturday reviewed the activities of the Jordanian Syrian Industry Company (JSIC) which is in charge of operating a number of economic projects in both countries.

Dr. Muasher and Mr. Tarabuli, who arrived here Saturday on a two-day visit to Jordan, co-chaired the meeting of the general assembly of the JSIC, which also evaluated the present activities of the JD 20.5 million white cement company based in the south of Jordan and another scheme in Syria for manufacturing carpets.

According to the JSIC annual report, the white cement company, whose commercial operations started in August 1985 with a daily production output of 320 tonnes, has achieved an "excellent quality production registering two per cent higher than the British standard for cement quality."

The report added that production output during both the company's experimental and commercial operations reached 47,038 tonnes, one of which, 36,344 tonnes were marketed in Jordan and Syria. The company's operations are progressing very well and are covering the needs of both countries' markets, the report said.

Regarding the Syrian-based carpet company, the report noted that the concern had been set up in accordance with international specifications and that its operations are carried out "properly."

The report also noted the feasibility of joint projects to be carried out by the two countries through the JSIC and stressed the necessity of expanding the company's participation base to accommodate other Arab countries.

Saturday's gathering also reviewed the steps taken to date regarding the establishment of a company to produce pesticides in Damascus. According to the report, the Syrian government was in the process of granting the projected company all support and exemptions, after which, the government would decide the volume of its financial participation.

An agreement between the governments of Jordan and Syria for the pesticide company was endorsed by Parliament two months ago, despite objections raised by deputies Fouad Farraj and Abdullah Al Akaileh.

Saturday's meeting also endorsed an agreement under which the Syrian-Jordanian Bank is to lead the two governments a total of JD 250,000.

A senior Jordanian official, who earlier described the trade links between both countries as "good," said a lot remained to be completed on organising the exports and imports between the two states and finding means to finance them.

Princess Basma reviews preparations for Save the Children spring festival

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chairs a meeting at Al Nuzha community centre to review preparations for a spring festival for the benefit of Save the Children Fund activities in Jordan (Petra photo)

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the Jordanian Save the Children Fund (SCF), on Saturday visited Al Nuzha community centre where she met with wives of Arab and foreign ambassadors whose respective countries plan to take part in the SCF's 1987 spring festival, due to be held at the Al Aman Plaza Hotel on April 3.

Proceeds of the event will go to support activities run by the fund throughout the Kingdom.

At the meeting, Princess Basma reviewed the various activities and programmes to be carried out during the festival and arrangements for different organisations taking part in the event.

To date, the embassies of 23 countries will take part in the spring display. They are the embassies of China, Indonesia, Italy, Greece, Pakistan, Kuwait, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Russia, India, Korea, Britain, Egypt, Canada, France, the Philippines, Austria, Belgium, Romania, Japan, Qatar, and the U.S. Other institutions to take part in the exhibition are the American Women of Amman, the Alia Gateway Hotel, the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, the House and Gardening Club and the Orthodox Club.

At the festival, there will be wings for selling gifts, food supplies, stationery, fancy dresses, children's toys, crafts and artificial flowers. In addition, there

programmes for women, including tailoring and embroidery courses, typing and secretarial schemes, as well as work related to puppetry, straw weaving, home economics, family education, nursing and first aid. Princess Basma voiced appreciation to the audience for their participation in the coming festival.

Later, she accompanied the wives of the ambassadors on a tour of the various parts of the Nuzha community centre and where they were briefed on its services and activities.

The SCF was founded in Jordan in 1974 and it carries out integrated health and social services and projects for mothers and children in various regions of the Kingdom. The SCF's first project was set up in Ma'an and caters for citizens in the town and in neighbouring villages.

Princess Basma also reviewed the fund's activities and training

Thought forum opens seminar on the Islamic awakening

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday patronised the opening of a three-day seminar on "the Islamic awakening and the problems of the Arab World," organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

In his opening speech, which was read out on his behalf by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, Prince Hassan explained that the Islamic awakening was an answer to the political, social and economic problems that the Arab nation is facing. The Crown Prince defined a discussion of the Islamic awakening to be "a discussion of the conditions of the Muslims during a certain historical period and their intellectual and political school of thoughts and movements during the concerned period."

He said that one of the main objectives of the seminar was to try to explore the historical conditions which led to the modern Islamic awakening, to study its sources of origin, the stages of its development and finally to define the major Islamic movements and tendencies which champion the cause of the Islamic awakening.

The Crown Prince, however, noted that there is a distinction between discussing the Islamic awakening and Islam per se. While Islam, in its main tenets and teachings, is constant the features and the forms of an Islamic awakening change from one historical period to another and are shaped and influenced by many political, social and economic factors, Prince Hassan continued.

"The main principles and tenets of Islam remain constant

and unchangeable," he said, "while a discussion (of the Islamic awakening) is a discussion of a social phenomenon within a specific historical context or throughout the history of Islam."

But the Crown Prince noted that, fortunately, there have been a number of Arab politicians and theorists who have tried to combine both awakenings in one movement.

During the first session, Dr. Yusef Al Qardawi presented a paper on the "general framework of the modern Islamic awakening" in which he outlined the main features of Islam as understood by the modern Islamic awakening.

According to Dr. Qardawi, Islam as understood by the modern Islamic movement focuses on the following aspects: to combine and strike a balance between fundamentalism, traditional ideals and modernisation, to achieve parity between the constant and changeable elements of the movement, to warn against intellectual stagnation and finally to seek to realise a comprehensive understanding of Islam.

"Thus it has become extremely relevant to realise and make a distinction between the authentic movements and those which are alien," he noted.

Prince Hassan called for a combination and bond between the Islamic awakening and the Arab nationalist awakening. He pointed out with regret that many thinkers have separated and drawn

Rifai: Jordan is back on course towards development and progress

(Continued from page 1)

increasing the volume of taxes and fees. According to what economists believe these are above the maximum level, and at the same time the government has been increasing travel taxes and cancelling allowances for travel and overtime work. Don't you think this is making it difficult for people in general and the employees in particular?

Q: With reference to parliamentary elections again, you said that 18 new deputies have been elected representing the West Bank but these were chosen by the House members themselves. Don't you believe that the wider base for election is on the West Bank where the people there should elect their representative?

A: Holding elections under Israeli occupation is not of question. But the constitution has provided for some sort of arrangement to make up for that and an amendment to the constitution stipulates that this can be done within the House as it has been done. When the election is held in the East Bank, the deputies representing the East Bank will, according to the amendment in the constitution, elect half of the representatives of the West Bank and the new elected group of West Bank deputies will in turn elect the last quarter.

Q: The government has been

are spent abroad every year. The government has raised the fees for travellers by air from JD 10 to JD 15 because this is expected to stem travel and save hard currency for the country and at the same time provide some sort of income for the government to help it carry out public services.

In addition, hard currency is hard to come by these days. Of course, the government needs the money and whatever income it gets to spend it on opening roads, building health centres, hospitals, on electricity and water projects and improving other services to the public. Therefore, those who can travel and spend extravagantly abroad can of course pay an additional JD 5 as a departure fee for the sake of serving the country and the general public.

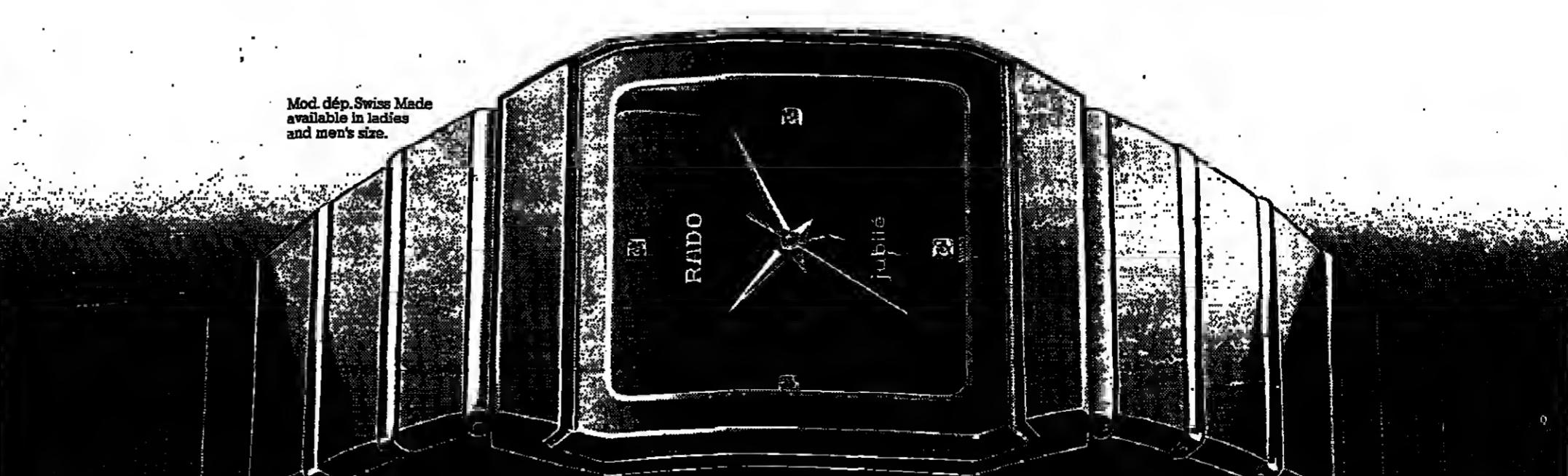
The same measure applies to those employing domestic servants. I have lately acquainted myself with statistics and was surprised to see that we have at least 8,084 Filipino and Sri Lankan servants who annually transfer JD 10 million abroad. If we take into account the cost of keeping these servants in Jordan in terms of food, medication, and clothing etc... we can also add another JD 10 million. This is quite unreasonable at all and quite unjustifiable.

Of course there will always be isolated cases which can be treated separately in terms of fee

(Continued on page 4)

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Can an accountant who's never made a programme run the BBC?

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — Plagued by controversy, accused of anti-government bias and facing an explosion of competition, the British Broadcasting Corp. has chosen a virtual unknown to be its director general.

When Michael Checkland beat five other candidates for the top broadcasting job in Britain, there was a scramble for information about him, and every newspaper printed the same three-year-old photograph — the only one in their files.

Checkland has never made a radio or television programme; instead, he rose through BBC ranks via the behind-the-scenes finance and management route. Even after being named deputy director to Alasdair Milne in 1985, he was little known outside the corporation.

Milne resigned in January, saying his decision was for personal reasons. But a British newspaper reported he resigned under pressure from the board of governors because of controversies that included two libel suits, police seizure of a segment on

Britain's first spy satellite and charges of anti-government bias in BBC reports on the U.S. attacks on Libya.

Checkland, named acting general director, was so impressive during his four-week stint, the board of governors said, that he won the job over higher-profile rivals with impressive broadcasting credentials.

He takes charge of a publicly funded organisation of 25,400 employees with a budget of 933 million pounds (\$1.46 billion).

The BBC is one of Britain's major institutions, blanketing the land with commercial-free radio and television and beaming widely respected radio programmes abroad. But it is at a contentious period in its 65-year history.

Media observers reacted with caution and some dismay to Checkland's appointment of Feb. 26. The Times of London urged boldness, saying he must not revert to "his accountant's caution." Michael Leapman wrote in the London Daily News that choosing an accountant over senior broadcasters was "a safety-first choice that is sure to be reflected on our screens."

"We have to keep the quality of programmes up in a period of

In his first news conference, the 51-year-old Checkland insisted that he is more than just an accountant, saying that for the past 10 years "I've been concerned with making programmes happen, getting the resources for them."

Right now, the BBC has only one major television rival and no national radio competition. But with a fledgling cable TV service already operating, satellite broadcasting on the horizon and the government recommending the creation of three national independent radio networks, he will face tough decisions about how — or whether — the BBC can meet the competition.

The central task of the new director general is to take (the BBC) from a cozy and highly successful monopoly system, in which half the national audience has been handed to it on a plate, into a world of unregulated free market forces," said Nigel Ryan, another candidate for director general.

Checkland said he was ready for change. "We have to keep the quality of programmes up in a period of

change. The BBC is not going to be in everything. We want to form a partnership with change, not oppose it," he said.

He gave more clues to his thinking in a speech to a conference on broadcasting eight days before his selection.

"Education, information and entertainment will drive the BBC on into the 21st century," he said. "We must be steady, confident and mean in using the massive resources still at our disposal, and bold and brave in choosing our priorities."

The new director general — nicknamed "Checkbook Checkland" — said Britain should be proud of the BBC. "Criticise it by all means and regularly — we do so ourselves daily," he said.

But Checkland, apparently referring to the controversies that reportedly led to his predecessor's resignation, warned that "deliberate and sustained attacks day by day" would ultimately weaken the BBC. If weakened, he said, the innovation, risk-taking and investigative journalism would diminish and the country's democratic process would be

poorer.



Michael Checkland: The DG with the vision of a leaner and fitter BBC

A softer Rambo may even start thinking

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Rambo may be getting soft. Sylvester Stallone is changing the script to make the character who launched a one-man invasion of Vietnam more realistic and less of a cartoon.

"I'm afraid the public will not buy the Rambo they know one more time," an aide to Stallone said. "He is going to bring Rambo more into the real world, give him more depth, maybe even make him start thinking about world issues instead of blasting everything that moves."

One important reason for the change is the film "Platoon," a stark, realistic infantryman's view of the Vietnam war which received eight Oscar nominations and is topping the U.S. box office takings.

Stallone believes this is a sign that audiences, particularly American audiences, want more realism in their films.

Stallone's latest film, "Over the Top," the saga of a muscle-bound truck driver who goes in for arm wrestling, is only fourth place in the U.S. box office ratings, a relative failure for the world's top box office draw.

In addition to "Platoon," the unheralded "Mamequin," starring comparative unknowns Andrew McCarthy and Kim Cattrall, and "Outrageous Fortune,"

starring Bette Midler are also ahead of Stallone in the box office race.

"Mamequin" is showing in less than a thousand theatres, compared with 1,800 showing Stallone.

The story of a man who falls in love with a bewitched shop dummy, "Mamequin" cost only six million dollars to make, whereas "Over the Top" cost \$25 million.

Stallone, estimated by United Artists studio executive Lee Rich to have grossed more than one billion dollars at the box office, has usually had an opening weekend box office of more than \$15 million.

But "Over the Top" took \$5.1 million on its opening holiday weekend.

Ten years after Stallone's first movie, "Rocky," won an Oscar for best picture, film experts are wondering whether Stallone is going to have to change his image to end a style of acting described as shoot 'em up, mumble later.

In "Rambo: First Blood Part II," Stallone had only 163 lines, less than two a minute.

"He fought for the American way of life as boxer Rocky Balboa in the 'Rocky' series, rescued American prisoners from Vietnam in the 'Rambo' series and, as cop Marion 'Cobra' Crockett, wiped out crazed killers whom the rest of the police force

wanted to leave alone in "Cobra."

Theft critical problem for archaeologists

By Carl Manning
The Associated Press

BELIZE CITY, Belize — The beaded jade necklace glistens in the sunlight as a middle-aged Belizean holds it up for inspection by a visitor who casually expressed an interest in ancient Maya artifacts.

"Now, if I was in the business of selling, I might be able to get \$2,500 for it," the man says. "Maybe for you, it would be no more than \$1,500."

In the United States, he says, it might sell for up to \$10,000 at a major auction house.

It has been a heady journey for the man born in the tough hell's kitchen area of New York, who cleaned out lion's cages and worked as a cinema usher for six years while looking for acting jobs.

To the recorded sound of a trumpet fanfare, Stallone announced at a news conference last May that he had signed a multi-million dollar agreement with United Artists to make 10 films in the next six years and to star in at least five.

"They will all be in a very energetic role," Stallone said then.

But some film analysts say the time may be coming when Stallone will be able to make the film that has been a lifelong ambition: The story of the brooding poet and author Edgar Allan Poe.

an interview at Belmopan, the capital built in the middle of the jungle about 50 miles west of Belize City.

"Sometimes it is sold on the open market, which adds an air of legality to a very illegal business," he said.

More than 600 Maya sites have been found in Belize, Topsey said.

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But some film analysts say the time may be coming when Stallone will be able to make the film that has been a lifelong ambition: The story of the brooding poet and author Edgar Allan Poe.

For selling any looted Maya artifact, the man could be fined \$5,000 and imprisoned up to five years by the government of this small Central American nation, which every artifact is crucial to recreating the history and decline of the mysterious civilisation.

The problem of looting has increased tenfold in the past five years.

There is no way to say just how much has been taken out of

the country," archaeology com-

missioner Harriet Topsey said in

a population 162,000, simply does not have enough police to curb the thefts, he said.

"If you had the whole police force, you still couldn't stop it because you need other countries like the United States working to stop it," Topsey said. "Only by international cooperation can you stop it."

Small artifacts such as pots and figures that fit into suitcases and pockets are hardest to protect, although some looters resort to bizarre methods of trying to spirit the items out of the country.

One would-be smuggler cut up a stele — a stone column covered with Maya glyphs — and tried to carry it out of the country in 11 suitcases, said Winnel Branche, another government archaeologist.

"It was all the weight that gave it away. It was a pretty ridiculous thing to try to do," Ms. Branche said.

Sometimes looters become victims. In early February two Guatemalan men died in a remote area of northern Belize when a section of Maya mound they were looting collapsed, a coroner's report said.

Objects from the classic period are often found in the caves that dot Belize, Ms. Branche said. The Mayas considered the caves gateways to the underworld, and placed bowls of food in them as offerings to the gods, she said.

Woman sets off in solo bid to reach North Pole

By Betzi Woodman
Reuter

WARD HUNT ISLAND, Canada — A diminutive 40-year-old American, accompanied only by eight sledge dogs, has set out across the Arctic ice aiming to become the first woman to reach the North Pole by land.

Pam Flowers, a former medical worker who lives in Wasilla, Alaska, set out last weekend from this remote Canadian outpost on a journey that will last at least two months.

Flowers admits to being obsessed with her objective.

During the long trek, her only contact with humans will be a daily radio conversation, if conditions permit, with base camp manager Kate Persons at Resolute, a weather station and far-north airport in Canada.

Flowers is also carrying a radio beacon which will keep her in regular contact with two polar orbiting satellites. This contact will help keep her on course, along with her traditional magnetic compass and sextant readings.

"I will know when I am there (the pole) because the beacon can pinpoint me within a few feet of my position on the ice. There's no way I can cheat," she said prior to her departure.

Flowers must complete her journey by mid-May at the latest because the 24-hour Arctic sun, which comes with the vernal equinox in mid-March, will make the ice too broken and mushy to traverse beyond that date.

The straight-line distance to the pole from her starting point is 765 kilometres, but Flowers expects she will travel at least 1,600 kilometres as she detours around open water and obstacles such as ice pressure ridges as high as 15 metres.

The polar ice can open up at any time, creating anything from a tiny crack to a fissure a 1.6 kilometre or more wide. If they are narrow enough, she can use her sledge as a bridge. If they are wider, she can make a pootoon bridge of ice slabs.

"Sometimes I will just wait," she said.

Flowers, who is 152 cm tall and weighs 43 kilograms, is using a light, flexible sledge based on an old Eskimo design.

The sledge is 4.25 metres long, 86 cm wide and has especially angled three-metre runners. It will not easily flip, which is important since she is travelling alone.

When loaded with gear and food, the sledge weighs about 2770 kilograms, which is more than Flowers can move over high ridges. The best way, she says, is to go around. Failing that, she will chop a passage through them or build platforms and ramps with slabs of ice.

Ice conditions alone will not

determine how far she goes in a day. The intense cold is another factor. Temperatures can get as low as minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 54 C) and, when accompanied by a 35 or 40 mile per hour wind, it becomes the equivalent of minus 150 degrees (minus 100 C).

The cold will affect all Flowers' activities, slowing the process of feeding and watering the dogs — which must be do four times a day — and tending her own needs.

Flowers will eat high-calorie foods — a half a pound of bacon a day with all fat absorbed by potatoes, sausage and logan bread, which is made with eggs, oats, and fruits, each slice providing 450 calories.

Fresh-baked logan bread and other food supplies will be delivered by air at predetermined food drops scheduled for every 14 to 17 days as weather permits.

Dehydration is a constant worry for both Flowers and her dogs. The snow contains little moisture, and gathering and melting it takes hours.

The dogs, with a higher metabolism than humans, can gulp snow without harm to assuage their thirst. Flowers carries tea or liquid jello for herself in a special bag to keep it from freezing.

The dogs, Siberian Huskies, are inured to sleeping in the open on burlap bags. The sledge carries with its gear boozes made of wood and with velcro fasteners to put on the dogs' feet when the ice is sharp.

With approval from the widow of Naomi Uemura, who made the first and so far only solo surface trek to the North Pole, Flowers is dedicating her trip as a memorial to the Japanese adventurer, who died in 1984 climbing alone on 6,166-metre Mt. McKinley in Alaska.

It was an article by Uemura, also a person of small stature, which fired Flowers' desire to leave her life of "collecting fine furniture and becoming an appraiser to the Arctic."

She quit her job as a respiratory therapist, sold her belongings, and began training for the odyssey. She headed north and in the past eight years has racked up more than 22,500 kilometres of winter sledge-dog trips, most of them alone. These include last year finishing the Iditarod, the gruelling 1,770 kilometres sledge-dog race across Alaska from Anchorage to Nome.

She says the first thing she plans to do when she gets home will be to "shower, eat a box of bon-bons and buff my nails."

Theo she'll get busy writing up the experiments and scientific readings taken on the trip and begin a book about the adventure. After that, she plans to start raising money for her next solo expedition — to the South Pole.

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Don Kendall, Managing Director, Kendall Airlines, Australia.



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Watford shatters Arsenal's dream of 3 English titles

LONDON (AP) — Arsenal's dream of winning all three English soccer titles was shattered Saturday when it was beaten 3-1 at home by Watford in the quarterfinal of the F.A. (Football Association) Cup.

Meanwhile, the two Merseyside clubs, Liverpool and Everton, moved further away from their north London rival in the league by winning their games. Champion and standings leader Liverpool won 3-1 at Oxford United while second-placed Everton beat Southampton 3-0 at home.

The results mean Liverpool maintained its six-point lead over Everton and moved ten points clear of third placed Arsenal, which has two games in hand.

In another cup game, Coventry City gained the semifinal for the first time in its history by winning 3-1 at Sheffield Wednesday.

Arsenal's sixth round game against Watford ended in controversy and unruly scenes on and off the field.

The home side, which will meet Liverpool in the final of the Littlewoods Cup at Wembley next month, took the lead through Ian Houchen.

But the visitor roared back with goals by England internationals Luther Blissett and John Barnes, before Blissett scored a controversial third in the last minute.

The linesman's flag went up

In Saturday's league action, Ian Rush scored his 32nd goal of the season and John Wark added two as Liverpool brushed Oxford aside.

Wigan claims Gorbachev as fan

WIGAN, England (AP) — English Third Division club Watford said Saturday it was counting on the support of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when it takes on Leeds United in an F.A. (Football Association) Cup semifinal on Sunday.

Watford's general manager, John Fillingham, said he expected Gorbachev to sit by his radio wearing his Wiggin hat and scarf cheering on the little north English club in its bid to reach a Wembley final for the first time in its history.

Fillingham said the club understood the Soviet leader took a keen interest in its fortunes.

"News of Mr. Gorbachev's

passion for our club was leaked in the Bangkok Post in January, so we sent him a complete set of our supporters' kit. Everybody knows the reason the Soviets stopped

jamming the (British Broadcast

Corporation's) world service

was so Mr. Gorbachev could follow the football league results, and in particular Wigan's performance," Fillingham said.

With the ball in the Watford area and play continued with Arsenal fans shouting for a penalty. It could have given their side an equaliser, but, instead, Blissett took the ball to the other end and scored Watford's third.

The Arsenal players drew the referee's attention to the linesman, but after the two officials consulted, referee Brian Stevens awarded the goal.

Amid angry scenes after the final whistle, one linesman was seen to be ducking to avoid missiles thrown from the stands and Arsenal's England international midfielder, Steve Williams, was involved in a heated exchange with Watford's manager, Graham Taylor.

At Sheffield, Coventry took the lead through Cyrille Regis only for Gary Megson to level soon after half time. But the visitor clinched a semifinal place with two strikes by Keith Houchen.

Two more quarterfinals ties

take place on Sunday. Wimborne hosts Tottenham Hotspur while Third Division Wigan Athletic receives Second Division Leeds United.

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"I'm 99 per cent not to go" to the Seoul Games, Coe said. "It's mostly because I don't particularly want to. I want to concentrate on 5,000 metres."

That followed Coe's victory in the 3,000, just .01 slower than the meet record and personal best the English star set a year ago.

Brian Asbury of the United States was second in 7:55.49 and Brian Diemer, a bronze medalist in the 1984 Olympic steeplechase, was third in 7:56.81.

Coe, who missed scheduled indoor appearances earlier in the season because of the flu, jettisoned into the lead on the first turn of the final lap, blazing the final 200 metres in 27.27. With a half-tap to go, he turned his head to make sure no one was gaining on him.

The tide continued to run the English way in the 1,000, as Tony Morrell beat teammate Peter Elliott by five yards to win in 2:22.31.

But in the 800, Randy Moore of the United States held off a strong charge from England's Andrew Myatt to win by three yards in 1:50.25.

Afterward, he said lapses in training this year had cost him

son in the 200 at 21.35.

Jefferson had a shot at a double

victory as he defended his 60-metre crown, but England's Ernest Obeng shot out of the blocks and led all the way to win in 6.72, with Jefferson second in 6.78.

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U.S. edges England in athletics meet

COSFORD, England (AP) — The United States, sparked by a national-record performance by the 1,600-metre relay team, edged England in the sixth annual Kodak Classic indoor track and field meet, where two-time Olympic champion Sebastian Coe said he probably would not compete in the 1988 Games.

Clarence Daniel set a meet record in the 400 and ran the first leg of the U.S. relay quartet, which was clocked in 3 minutes, 6.01 seconds, .02 seconds faster than the U.S. mark set by the University of Southern California in 1980 and .11 slower than the world indoor best of 3:05.90, set by the Soviet Union in 1970.

In a meet full of second and third-string athletes, the biggest cheers went to the biggest home-team names. And one of them, Coe, made big news.

Coe, the two-time Olympic 1,500-metre champion from England, took the 3,000 metres at 7:54.33, in his only appearance of the indoor season and received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd of 4,000 at Cosford Royal Air Force Base.

Afterward, he said lapses in training this year had cost him

valuable conditioning and that, plus a desire to get away from the 800 and 1,500 he probably had ended his Olympic career.

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France's Fignon wins 5th stage of Paris-Nice race

ST. TROPEZ, France (AP) — France's Laurent Fignon won the fifth stage of Paris-Nice cycling race but Ireland's Stephen Roche retook the overall lead heading into the final two days.

Fignon won the 208-kilometre (130-mile) stage between Toulon and the French Riviera resort of St. Tropez in 5 hours, 3 minutes, 54 seconds and received a 10-second bonus.

Furnished flats for rent

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone. Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.

Phone: 673768, 672842 after 2 p.m.

Italy's Nati takes vacant European title

IRELAND'S Sean Kelly, seeking his sixth straight Paris-Nice victory, was second, seven seconds behind. A pair of Frenchmen, Eric Boyer and Ronan Pensec were next with Roche close behind, all in the same time as Kelly.

Roche moved into the overall lead with an advantage of 24 seconds over Kelly. France's Jean-Francois Bernard, who was first after the fourth stage, finished more than two minutes behind.

The fight started fast and furiously with both boxers landing hard punches and Amand displaying a threateningly long reach.

But in the second round a left-hander from the 30-year-old Italian opened up a gaping cut under Amand's right eyebrow. The referee stopped the fight against France's Marc Amand in the second round of a scheduled 12-round contest.

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But in the second round a left-hander from the 30-year-old Italian opened up a gaping cut under Amand's right eyebrow. The referee stopped the fight against France's Marc Amand in the second round of a scheduled 12-round contest.

Nati, the "Tiger of Forli," was making his 11th European appearance in front of a noisy hometown crowd.

The European Boxing Union named Nati and Amand to fight for the title after it was left vacant in January by Jim McDonnell.

Across the half-mile-wide Han

valley made his move in the last mountain pass about 23 kilometres from the finish. He was able to win comfortably over Kelly.

The next stage is a 163-kilometre (100-mile) section to Mandelieu. The race ends Sunday with a stage to Nice and a time-trial up a mountain to the village of Eze.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahraini, Dutch firms form joint venture

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — ABC Investment and Services Co. E.C., a subsidiary of the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, and Koopman Effectenkantoor N.V., a Dutch-based stockbroking firm, agreed to form a 50-50 joint venture, an announcement said Friday. The new firm, named ABC-Koopman Capital Markets N.V., is to be based in Amsterdam, with an authorised capital of 12.5 million Dutch florins (\$6 million), said a press release. The firm will engage in a wide range of investment banking activities such as management buy-outs, mergers and acquisitions, securities underwriting, stock exchange introductions and money management, the release said. The new company will commence business in June.

IDB to lend Algeria \$9 million

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend \$9 million loan to Algeria to help finance its cotton imports. The loan agreement, signed here last week, specifies that the imports come from an IDB member country. The accord was signed by IDB Vice President Ousmane Seck, with Mr. Saeed Mirsad, director general of the Algerian Cotton Industries Corporation, and Mr. Abdal Qadeer Humoodi, representing the Central Bank of Algeria. This brings total IDB assistance to the country over the past seven months to \$74 million.

Insurance firms lose on space mishaps

ROME (R) — The world's insurance companies have lost 400 billion lire (\$303 million) paying out on failed space projects, the president of one of Italy's leading insurers said last week. Mr. Enrico Randone, president of Assicurazioni Generali, told a conference that companies had earned some 800 billion lire (\$606 million) from premiums for space projects but had paid out damages of 1,200 billion lire (\$909 million). "In the last 10 years the international market has seen negative results for the sector," Mr. Randone told the conference on the insurance of commercial activity in space. "The situation got even worse in 1986 because of the Challenger disaster and other failed launches," he said.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today can bring annoyances and upsets that require attention, so do them in a careful fashion. Later you are able to enjoy your surroundings and gain vitality.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle that myriad of tiny tasks and then make your surroundings more charming. Be with good friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to have a good time today, but little problems come up. Take care of these and all goes fine for you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The home situation is not pleasant, but say nothing. This will relieve tensions and all should improve there.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be particularly careful while driving. Get rid of that moodiness and smile more.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find a more efficient way of handling your daily duties. Study your property and plan any needed improvements.

VENUS (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get rid of that feeling of discontent and you can be with a charming group of friends for some fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get rid of a limitation and later you can be with the one you love and be happy together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Concentrate on how best to be of assistance to a good friend who is having a little trouble now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A worldly affair could be upsetting, but relax and it dissolves itself very quickly.

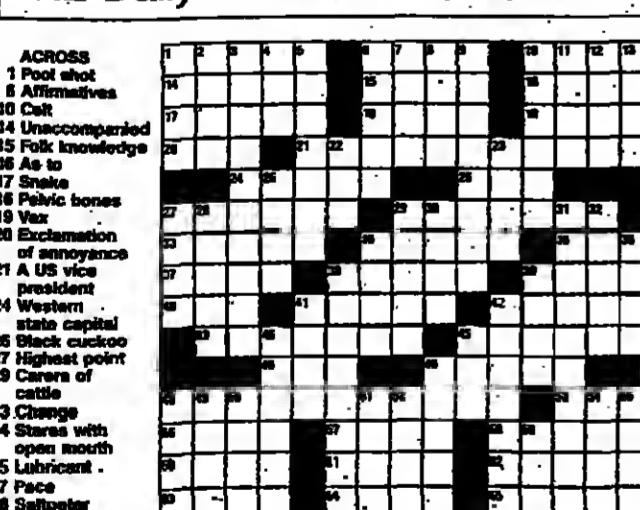
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A new interest may seem hard to get into, but later you can easily delve right into it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You want to get out of a promise you have made, but wait until later when the influences are much better.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Steer clear of an associate who is very talkative and likes to nag. Later you can be with persons you truly enjoy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will always be looking for errors here and there and find them and correct them. He, or she, will be a perfectionist and be of great assistance to any employer. Send this out to the best schools and add psychology to better understand the motivations of others.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Pizza Solved:
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Kremlin assures Soviets 'past mistakes will not be repeated'

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin told Soviet citizens Saturday that most of the work still lies ahead in building the nation into a vital economic power, but assured them "the past mistakes will not be repeated."

The address by the Communist Party Central Committee headed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev covered the front page of all major national newspapers and opened the hourly newscasts of Radio Moscow.

It was issued in connection with this year's 70th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. An accompanying decree announced that preparation of the anniversary are under way.

The Central Committee's address to the people heralded the accomplishments of socialism, declaring the revolution "the most outstanding event of the 20th century."

"We do not have exploitation of man by man. We do not have

unemployment, we do not have national oppression and we do not have poverty and illiteracy," the address said. "Only the first steps have been made. Most of the work is still ahead."

"Are there guarantees that the process of change will not stall, that the past mistakes will not be repeated? Yes. There are. The people are interested in reorganization," the party leadership stated.

Reorganization is the term used to describe Mr. Gorbachev's campaign for broad changes in Soviet society that are aimed at accelerating economic growth and improving living standards.

The effort is being met by some frequent media reports about failure by many industries to meet their output targets or to produce goods that measure up to tougher quality-control checks that began on the first of the year.

Mr. Gorbachev, in recent speeches, has also referred to ideological resistance by those who fear his reforms deviate from socialist principles.

"Now reorganization is a fact of life, but the people may not flatter themselves with what has already been achieved," the

address said. "Only the first steps have been made. Most of the work is still ahead."

Since Mr. Gorbachev became the Soviet leader in March 1985, those deviations have been respectively ascribed to past leaders Josef Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev.

"Now reorganization is a fact of life, but the people may not flatter themselves with what has already been achieved," the

address said. "Only the first steps have been made. Most of the work is still ahead."

Argentina general refuses to testify on rights abuses

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — An Argentine general has refused to testify on human rights violations during military rule and defended the government's actions during the "dirty war" in which 9,000 people disappeared, court sources said.

Gen. Juan Bautista Sasiain told the court in Cordoba, north west of Buenos Aires, that the trials of military officers charged with human rights violations were a continuation of the leftist revolution, they said.

The sources said the court would probably order Gen. Sasiain's preventive arrest pending trial on Monday.

Gen. Sasiain was called to testify in connection with the death in October 1976 of 13 prisoners held in a jail in Cordoba, where Gen. Sasiain was head of the army's Fourth Airborne Infantry Brigade. He later became federal police chief.

Gen. Sasiain is accused of sign-

ing transfer orders for the prisoners. The army said they died trying to escape but relatives have charged they were shot by a firing squad.

Argentina was ruled by a military junta from 1976 to 1983.

The Argentine supreme court unanimously rejected Friday night a request by the country's highest military tribunal that it be allowed to resume jurisdiction over trials of military officers accused of human rights violations.

The five supreme court justices ruled that request filed by the Supreme Military Council, questioning the competence of civilian courts in trying military men, was "manifestly improper."

The ruling cleared the way for federal courts in several cities, including Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba and Mendoza, to continue with trials and hearings involving approximately 200 military officers.

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